'Kitchen Beads'

Dress up that most-used room

The kitchen is a place of much activity during the holiday season.

"Kitchen Beads" are fun to make, and will brighten up the homemaker's cooking chores as the holiday season approaches.

The materials needed to make Kitchen Beads are as follows: 1/2 cup cornstarch; one cup baking soda; 3/4 cup cold water; a two-quart saucepan; a large, thick nail; felt-tip marking pens in colors desired; colorless nail polish or clear shellac; shoelaces or cord for stringing.

Directions

In saucepan, mix baking soda and cornstarch. Mix in water. Place over low heat, stirring constantly until mixture reaches moist mashed potato consistency.

Pour mixture onto a dinner plate; cover with damp cloth.

When cool enough to handle, roll small pieces of mixture into ropes of desired thickness, keep remainder of mixture covered until used; with knife, cut into about half-inch bead lengths. Make a hole in each bead with a nail. Bake for 15 minutes (no longer) at 350 degrees farenheit.

Let cool and stand overnight.

With felt-tip pens, decorate with dots, stripes, etc. Finish with shellac, or nail polish. This will cause some of the colors to run together, giving an attractive effect.

String beads on shoelace or cord, occasionally knotting between beads.

Homemade lamps:

cheap, simple to make

Homemade lamps make for inexpensive, attractive, personal gifts at Christmas.

The only problem is, after you've finished your lamp, you may be tempted to keep it for yourself!

To make your own lamp, you'll need the following materials: one glass gallon jug (smooth glass); one old tooth brush; brown paste wax shoe polish; masking tape 1 or 1½ inches wide; one lamp-making kit; gravel or stones; recovered lamp shade.

Directions

Cover the jug with torn masking tape starting with the bottom working up the sides, overlapping the straight sides with torn edges and when the jug is completely covered with the torn edged tape (the torn edges make a better looking finish), apply paste wax shoe polish with a tooth brush, allow the polish to build up around the torn edges of the tape.

When the polish has dried, polish lightly with a soft clean cloth. Add stones or gravel to give weight. Assemble with lamp kit and add the recovered or recycled lamp shade.

NOTE: Green, aqua and brown wine bottles also make beautiful lamps. Brown syrup bottles give a creative touch when made into lamps.

TAKE AN ORDINARY hydrant, add a bit of snow and what have you got? Something that looks a lot like Santa! [Photo by Allen Austin]

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How to ensure a white Christmas

"White Christmas" is a term made popular by Bing Crosby, but even if the Bing hadn't immortalized the phrase with his holiday hit, snow and Christmas would likely be closely associated.

Here is a lovely holiday craft idea called the "Wonderland Snowflake." Directions and materials below are for one snowflake. finished size of the item is approximately 3½ inches in diameter.

Materials needed: ten yards of white navy cord; one 1-inch white plastic ring (as found in drapery departments).

Directions

1. Cut 20 cords 18 inches long.
2. Mount all 20 cords onto the one-inch plastic ring with Lark's Heads.
3. Divide the cords into groups of four cords and tie a square knot with each group.
3. Divide cords into groups of four cords and tie a square knot with each group. (You will have 10 square knots around the ring.)
4. Alternate cords and tie two square knots with each group of four cords. (You will have a total of 10 two-knot sinnets. Divide these sinnets into five groups of two sinnets each.)
5. Alternate cords and tie one square knot between the two sinnets in each group. You will have five alternating square knots, and these will draw the two sinnets in each group toward each other and away from adjacent groups.
6. Take one group from Step 5 and divide the cords in half (four cords on each side).
7. Take the outside cord on left as a holding cord and Clove Hitch the three other cords in a diagonal line toward the center onto it. Repeat on the right side.
8. Join the two Clove Hitched lines in center by Clove Hitching holding cord from one side onto the holding cord from other side.
9. Repeat Steps 7 and 8 until you have three rows of Clove Hitches.
10. Clip cords just beneath the third row of Clove Hitches and add some clear drying glue to ends.
11. Repeat Steps 6-10 with other groups.

How to treat shrimp

Zolene's Shrimp Dip
¼ pound or one small can shrimp.
3 oz. cream cheese.
½ cup mayonnaise.
¼ cup chilli sauce.
1 tablespoon catsup.
½ teaspoon worchestershire sauce.
¼ small onion, grated.

Add salt, pepper and tobasco to taste.

Thanks to Zolene Hardin for sharing this recipe with us.

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A new use for soap

By SHIRLEY WALTON
Extension Agent

For a simple, but most facinating craft requiring little time and little talent, try the art of soap decoupage.

Starting with one bar of soap and one Holly Hobbie picture, I found this craft mushroomed quickly. Before long, I'd done over three dozen bars for my children's friends, grab-bag gifts, and Christmas stocking stuffers.

A few bars of soap, candle wax (you can purchase this in most dime stores or craft houses). a knife and some pretty pictures will get you started. I find pictures from inexpensive wrapping paper work the best and most wrapping paper has four or five suitable designs on the same sheet. You can find gift wrap with everything from Raggedy Ann to fruit and flower designs.

First, select a bar of soap in a color and shape to complement you picture. Scented bars in the pastel colors of pinks, greens and lilacs, or those with fancy scrolls and shapes make soap bars extra special gifts and these can be purchased for as little as 35 cents a bar.

With your knife, remove all the protruding writing from the soap. Don't worry about the writing which is indented into the surface. Next, cut a picture to fit, then dunk it in water to make it pliable. Gently place it on the soap and dab off excess water with cloth or paper towel. The print will adhere easily.

Melt some candle wax. (Candle wax works best as it gives a clearer picture and won't be cloudy.) I use a disposable aluminum pan, setting it in my large skillet filled with some water. This eliminates cleanup and is a safe method. Once wax is melted, making sure it is hot to prevent a cloudy picture, use tongs to grasp sides of soap and quickly run decoupaged side through melted wax. Wipe any drips from sides of the bar and set aside to cool.

When cooled, lightly buff wax coating with a nylon stocking to produce a mellow shining surface. The wax coating is invisible and protects the print until the bar is nearly all used and you will be unaware of the coating when using the soap.

Let's make play dough

Play dough is a versatile holiday substance which can be made at home.

Here are the ingredients and directions to make uncooked and cooked play dough:

Play Dough [Uncooked]
1/2 c. salt
2 c. flour
1 c. water
Few drops of food coloring
1 tbsp. cooking oil

Pour salt into flour. Gradually add water and stir. Add a few drops of food coloring and oil. Place small amount of flour on board. Knead in flour until play dough is easy to handle. Store in tightly covered container.

Play Dough [Cooked]
1 c. salt
1/2 c. cornstarch
1/2 c. boiling water

Mix salt and cornstarch together. Add boiling water. Cook over very low heat stirring constantly until mixture is too stiff to stir. When cool, knead until smooth. Can be stored in tupperware.

Articles made from this may be painted with extra thick poster paints.

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